

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application and entry of the remarks are respectfully requested. Claims 1 to 20 are currently pending, claims 5 and 17 have been canceled, and claims 1, 15 and 19 have been amended.

The Final Office Action mailed January 29, 2004 addressed claims 1 to 20. Claims 1 to 4, 6 to 9, 15, 16, 18 and 20 were rejected, claims 5, 17 and 19 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim, and claims 10 to 14 were allowed.

Claims 1 to 4, 6 to 8, 15, 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wong et al. (6,585,555). The Examiner stated that regarding claim 1, Wong discloses a ball comprising a core and a cover, and the cover includes a thermochromic material that changes according to temperature. The Examiner further stated that regarding claim 2, the thermochromic section is on the surface of the ball; regarding claim 3, the temperature indication is visible; regarding claim 4, the visible indication is in at least two parts, and several colors are permanently displayed while one or more colors change when the temperature changes; regarding claims 6 to 8, Wong discloses the thermochromic materials suitable for the invention are found in Nakasuji et al., which discloses the thermochromic material may include liquid crystals or leuco dye; and regarding claims 15, 16 and 18, Wong discloses a ball comprising a core and a cover, the cover includes a thermochromic material that changes according to temperature, and Wong discloses the thermochromic materials suitable for the invention are found in Nakasuji et al., which discloses the thermochromic material may include liquid crystals or leuco dye.

Although Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner, claims 1 and 15 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 5 and 17, respectively, and claims 5 and 17 have been canceled. Claims 5 and 17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claim 19 was amended to depend from claim 15 instead of claim 17, which has been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 15, as amended, are allowable and fail to teach each and every element of Wong.

Since, as discussed above, Wong does not teach each and every element of Applicant's claims 1 and 15, Applicant respectfully submits that Wong does not anticipate Applicant's claims. Claims 2 to 4, 6 to 8, 16 and 18 depend from claims 1 and 15 and are therefore also not anticipated

by Wong. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections of claims 1 to 4, 6 to 8, 15, 16 and 18 as anticipated by Wong under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Claims 9 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wong et al. The Examiner stated that the additional cover layer is an obvious duplication of the first cover layer, and one of ordinary skill in the art would have included a second cover layer to increase the durability of the ball.

As discussed above, claims 1 and 15 have been amended, and Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 15 are now allowable. Claims 9 and 20 depend from claims 1 and 15, respectively. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that claims 9 and 20 are also allowable.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 9 and 20 are not obvious over Wong et al. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 9 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Wong et al.

The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney if it is deemed that a telephone conversation will hasten prosecution of the application.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of each of the presently objected and rejected claims, claims 1 to 20. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1 to 4, 6 to 16 and 18 to 20, the claims currently pending.

Respectfully submitted,

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